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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/757,138	
	Filing Date	January 9, 2001	
	First Named Inventor	Chad C. Smutney	
	Group Art Unit		
	Examiner Name		
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	3*	Attorney Docket Number	P-1656

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement w/ 2 refs. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Return Receipt Postcard
Remarks *The total number of pages in this submission does not include the references.		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Frederick A. Spaeth
Signature	<i>Frederick A. Spaeth</i>
Date	March 20, 2001

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on this date: 03/20/01			
Typed or printed name	Michelle E. Fetzner		
Signature	<i>Michelle E. Fetzner</i>	Date	March 20, 2001

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Chad C. Smutney et al : GROUP ART UNIT:
SERIAL NO: 09/757,138 :
FILING DATE: January 9, 2001 : EXAMINER:
TITLE: Blunable Needle Assembly With :
Open-Ended Blunting Probe : ATTY DKT: P-1656

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**LETTER ACCOMPANYING
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 20, 2001

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(b), the Applicants herewith disclose for consideration in the above-captioned patent application the documents listed on the enclosed form PTO-1449, copies of which documents are enclosed therewith.

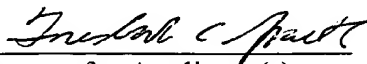
The enclosed Statement is being submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-captioned application so the items submitted therewith should therefore be considered without necessity of a certification, petition or fee.

The filing of the enclosed Statement shall not be construed: as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR 1.97(g)), nor as an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, nor as a representation that no other information material to patentability exists, nor as an admission that the information cited is entitled to prior art status relative to the above-captioned application, nor as an admission against interest in any manner.

Libert & Associates
3 Mill Pond Lane
P.O. Box 538
Simsbury, CT 06070-0538

Telephone: (860) 651-9321
Facsimile: (860) 651-5735

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicant(s)
Frederick A. Spaeth
Registration No. 33,793